



Purim Costume Ball —

Thursday, March 8

6:30 pm Snacks and Costume Fittings

7 pm Maariv, Megillah Reading and Schpiel, followed by Gay Iz Mir

CSZ's Singing Havurah presents a unique, never seen before, just like the old days, Purim Schpiel Extravaganza with masks and jugglers and Queens galore!!! Service and Megillah reading followed by our very own klezmer band, Gay Iz Mir, adding gay Yiddishkeit to any Purim Ball.

Now if you're a queen without a diamond tiara, no need to worry, costume guru Sarah Goodman will set up shop before the ball so you can choose from leopard skin, boas, cowboy hats and chaps, purple basketball uniforms, Joseph's multi-colored coat and Queen Esther gowns, all in preparation for CSZ's costume pageant.

Juggling for the Complete Klutz —

taught by Sara Felder Noily

Sunday, March 4 - 11am - 2pm

Bagel brunch will be provided.

You may be wondering what juggling and Judaism have in common. Did you know that jugglers are mentioned in the Talmud five times? Many, many years ago rabbis juggled at weddings to add joy to the occasion. Juggling is fun and surprisingly easy to learn. All are welcome to this class. The juggling class will participate in the Purim Ball on March 8.

Yizkor Elohim

John Atteridge

Sept. 28, 1954 - Feb. 4, 2001

Second Annual Open House Shabbat Dinner

In conjunction with Shabbat Across America. With singer / songwriter and friend of the community, Marsha Attie.

Friday, March 23, at 6:30 pm

Only \$5 - \$10 per person (sliding scale)

The Sha'ar Zahav Open House Shabbat Dinner is the perfect opportunity to grab those friends and relatives who always say they want to come to CSZ but never actually have. Or the best friend who wants to meet a nice Jewish boy at shul but never goes to shul. The evening will be filled with Shabbat rituals, a vegetarian dinner, singing and a traditional Shabbat service CSZ-style, followed by an oneg. Share the spirit, the learning, the prayer, and celebration that you have found at CSZ, and grab a friend!

This dinner is catered so please RSVP and send your check for you and a buddy by March 9, to Dahlia Gross (415/575-4961 or CSZDahlia@yahoo.com).

Pre-registration is required.

Cost for materials:

\$7 members

\$10 non-members

For more information on juggling and Judaism see:
www.juggling.org/~jews/

Annual Congregational Seder —

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav holds a community seder each year on the second night of Pesach. We will be celebrating this holiday of our liberation on Sunday, April 8 at the Fort Mason Officers' Club. The cost this year is \$36 for adult CSZ members, \$18 for children and \$45 for non-CSZ members. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav offers subsidies to those who are unable to afford the full cost, and opportunities are available to donate towards those subsidies. Please make certain to get your reservations for this popular event in to the CSZ office no later than March 20. Please contact Lea Salem at (415/861-6932), if you have any questions.

First Night — Passover Potluck Seder

Saturday, April 7

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav'niks like to spend the holidays together. Purim, Hanukah, Rosh Hashanah and Shabbat are only a few of the reasons we throw a party or have a service. But on the first night of Passover, one of the most important holidays of the year, we traditionally do not come together. In fact, most synagogues in the United States also assume their congregants have other places to be and thus choose to have the congregational seder on the second night. There are so many of us, however, who do not have a place to go. Either our family is too far away or we don't have family. Perhaps our partner is not Jewish, the work too much or any number of other reasons. But we shouldn't be alone on Passover. Our tradition says it is a mitzvah (commandment) to let a stranger into your home on Passover. I think we can also add that it is a mitzvah to let a fellow congregant, a friend, into your home as well.

Can you offer your home for a potluck First Night Seder? Would you like to attend a CSZ First Night Potluck Seder? Either way, you don't have to do too much work or necessarily lead the seder - that's the beauty of the potluck. And you'll get a lot of support from CSZ staff for preparation. If you are interested in hosting or attending please call CSZ Program Director Dahlia Gross (415/575-4961 or CSZDahlia@yahoo.com).



Rabbi Angel

"And the old shall dream dreams and the youth shall see visions and our hopes shall rise up to the sky. We will live for today and we must build for tomorrow. Give us time. Give us strength. Give us life." Debbie Friedman's adaptation of Joel 3:1

As I write this column, I am on the plane back from Washington, D.C., where I have spent four days with four of our amazing CSZ teens: Benjie Achtenberg, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Annie Downs and Jonah Levy. We gathered together with other teens and their rabbis for a *L'Taken* [to repair] Seminar, sponsored by the Religious Action Center, the Reform Movement's social action, lobbying arm on Capital Hill which represents 1.2 million Reform Jews, 900 UAHC congregations and 1800 rabbis. Throughout the long weekend, we joined in study, prayer and action; making our voices heard and presence felt on matters of justice, fairness and human decency; and reminding legislators and ourselves of the moral imperatives which bind us to each other and to the Divine ideal.

This has been an exhilarating weekend for me, getting to know our teens, watching them organize their thoughts and ultimately deliver with confidence and eloquence statements about homelessness, campaign finance reform and the peace process in the Middle East. Each of them spoke from their notes and from their hearts, intelligently and passionately about these issues, representing our congregation in an unforgettable way. I have no doubt that the aides to Senators Feinstein and Boxer and Representative Pelosi with whom we met will be reporting to their bosses what impressive visits they had with our extraordinary Jewish youth.

Throughout the trip, there were many people, who after an encounter with our group, came to me with their

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Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof! Justice, Justice Shall We Pursue

by Benjie Achtenberg, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Annie Downs and Jonah Levy

We have just returned from Washington, D.C. where we participated in the *L'Taken* Seminar sponsored by the Reform Movement's Religious Action Center. Held annually, this educational and inspirational conference brings together 300 Jewish teenagers from around the country to study a number of topics, including gun control, campaign finance reform, reproductive rights, separation of church and state and many other issues that are of concern to Jews, teens and all citizens.



L'taken Seminar - Learning to Speak Out

The weekend was full of learning opportunities. We met with homeless people who came to speak to us about their plight. We enacted a simulation game that showed us how two sides of an issue, the pro-gun control side and the anti-gun control side, go about lobbying. In this we came to understand why we are in such grave need of campaign finance reform. In the simulation we did role-playing and letter writing, rallying and lobbying on either side. This activity allowed us to bond with our peers, while at the same time instructing us on the issues about which we might choose to lobby.



Annie Downs, Benjie Achtenberg, Rabbi Camille Angel, Jonah Levy, Ruby Cymrot-Wu

After gaining information on these pressing subjects, we then selected a few of them to study in more depth, so that we could prepare to discuss them with our senators and representatives. On Saturday, we all loaded onto a bus and went to the Holocaust Museum. For two of us this wasn't our first visit. But we all left learning something new and becoming even more aware of the tragedy. Each of us copied down a different story about non-Jews helping to save Jews during the Holocaust as a

hopeful reminder that even in the midst of terrible evil there were examples of righteousness. One story that especially touched our hearts was of two sisters hiding thirteen Jews in their home, despite the fact that there was a Nazi hospital across the street and an SS

Officer living in their house. The hidden Jews all survived thanks to these sisters.

After the museum we went to a very special Havdalah service at the Lincoln Memorial. Despite the frigid weather, we had a lovely service with candles and readings and songs of peace. We snuck in a visit to the Korean and Vietnam Memorials, both of which were exquisite and moving. On Sunday morning, we co-led services with the contingent from Rodeph Sholom, Rabbi Angel's former congregation. One rabbi chaperoning the RAC trip said that our rendition of "Oseh Shalom" was especially beautiful. Over the course of the weekend, all of us became good friends with the kids from Rodeph Sholom, so it was great to be able to lead services with them.

We spent the rest of that day preparing our topics to discuss with members of Congress on Monday. We all studied different Jewish text on topics such as gay and lesbian issues, school vouchers,

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President's Column

Cloning the Advance



David Gellman

Every year a growing segment of Sha'ar Zahav's membership spends a weekend in the country participating in what we have come to call the "Advance" - CSZ speak for what other organizations refer to as a retreat. What began many years ago as a last-ditch effort to help a fractious and inexperienced Va'ad learn to work together as an effective body has, over time, become a major annual event. In a sunny and relaxed environment, current leaders and other members who demonstrate their commitment to, and involvement in CSZ, work together to address issues of concern to the congregation, get to know each other better through informal social activities, and renew our spiritual connection to Sha'ar Zahav.

The theme of last year's weekend was "L'dor Vador: Developing New Partnerships from Generation to Generation." One obvious focus was our new partnership with Rabbi Angel. With the careful planning of a dedicated group of volunteers and the enthusiastic participation of nearly 70 members, the 2000 Advance offered a wonderful initiation for Rabbi Angel, who joined us on her first morning in California, having arrived from New York to see her new home for the first time (in the dark) only a few hours earlier. Given the extraordinary volunteer and professional talent upon which we have come to rely over the years, the Advance was in every respect a wonderful event, re-energizing its participants to tackle another year of moving CSZ forward.

However, all is not sunshine and daffodils. The annual Advance is in danger of becoming a victim of its own success. The event is so popular that each year potential attendance exceeds the number of available places, and we are obliged to create a waiting list for members who would like to participate. The growing size of the event limits the number of available affordable venues, and puts planning under stress. Simple, fundamental elements, such as learning each other's names and backgrounds, take

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Art Shabbaton Weekend

April 20-22

Since the days of Miriam, Jews have used song, dance and artfully crafted objects to express their joy and awe spiritually. Now here's our chance. No prior art experience necessary!

Join fellow CSZ'ers from April 20 to 22 as we create a wall hanging which will illustrate our community's values and hopes. Come share a Havdalah service followed by Israeli folk dance lessons with our own swinging Gay Iz Mir klezmer band. Join us for services and workshops developing midrash through prose, poetry, music, visual arts, dance and the creation of ritual art objects. This is an entire weekend during which we can enhance personal reflection as well as enrich and embellish our sacred space. Registration and a donation will be required to participate in the weekend. Invitations will be sent out soon.

Calling all artists! We need your ideas to help shape our first annual celebration of the CSZ arts. We need workshop leaders for what you do: from Jewish art history to drama to cookie baking. Whatever! Join Phyllis Mintzer, Barbara Cymrot and Jeanette Nichols at a meeting at Barbara's on March 12. Call 415/ 621-5350 for directions.

Parlor Sessions, Round Two

During the past few months, approximately 70 congregants took advantage of a series of "Get to Know Your Rabbi" parlor sessions in order to meet Rabbi Angel. Whether held at a congregant's home or in the shul, each of these sessions had a similar format. Those in attendance related the story of how they came to Sha'ar Zahav. In the process, Rabbi Angel got to know a bit about each person and what it is about Sha'ar Zahav that each had found or is seeking. Rabbi Angel then shared her story – events from her history which contributed to her personal and professional development and ultimately to her coming to Sha'ar Zahav. As an added benefit, members also made connections with other members as they heard experiences which intrigued them – whether similar or different from their own lives. Another round of parlor sessions has been scheduled for coming months, but with a twist. We've been listening to member comments and requests and, as a result, while some sessions will be for the general membership, others are targeted for particular

Sha'ar Zahav ART SHABBATON

Everyone Welcome! No experience necessary!



Plan to participate for all/part of the weekend!

April 20-22, 2001

Artwork by Jeanette Nichols

groups of members. While these latter sessions have no "requirements," they are being created to provide a safe space for members of those groups and their friends to feel comfortable in sharing freely the particular experiences which have brought them to Sha'ar Zahav. The sessions are:

- March 25, 1-4 pm
General Membership (East Bay);
- April 3, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Transgender Members;
- April 5,
Queer Youth;
- April 24, 6:30 - 9:30 pm
Senior Men.

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions, please call the office to reserve a spot and for location. Rabbi Angel plans to continue with these parlor sessions periodically to meet more of our current members, new members and newly active members. If this is a good time for you to meet the rabbi, to share your story with her and with some of your co-congregants, please plan on attending one of these sessions this winter and spring.

Shalom Kadima and Sha'ar Zahav Families

by Riqi Kosovske

I am very excited to come aboard as the new Director of Children's Education. I am looking forward to getting to know you all in the coming months and thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have just spent two months in Jerusalem, which has been quite an experience during the current crisis. I am a Jewish educator from the East Bay, where I have lived and worked for the last six years. Before coming to Sha'ar Zahav, I was the director of Camp Kadima of Fremont for three years and Camp Tzofim of Oakland for two years prior. I also directed the Olam Yeladim after-school program in Oakland and have worked as a teacher and coordinator for Midrasha, the East Bay high school program. I love to do art with kids as well as midrash, creative projects and anything hands-on. I am also a writer and am completing a Master of Fine Arts in Writing & Consciousness from New College, just down the street from CSZ!

I am especially excited by the warmth, exuberance and creativity of the children and adults I have met at Sha'ar Zahav. Please feel free me to contact me at 415/575-4962 or educator@shaarzahav.org to introduce yourselves or to offer any ideas or feedback. L'hiraot!

Tzedek Tzedek Tirdof!

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Global HIV/World AIDS, and abortion to learn about what Reform Judaism has to teach on these issues so that we could lobby with this in mind. Then the four of us got together and decided what we really felt our representatives needed to hear about from us in order to make the changes we feel are needed in our state. We spent hours writing and preparing our lobbying presentations, excited and nervous about the next day's events.

Monday found us on our way to the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer and California Representative Nancy Pelosi. We met with their legislative aides and had

Pinat Mishpachah

Family Corner



Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner & Service

Friday, March 16, 6 pm

(Please note the change: Family Kabbalat Shabbat dinners will now be held on the third Friday night of the month.)

Shirah! (singing), T'fillah! (prayer), Kehillah! (community). Join Rabbi Angel, Riqi Kosovske, Jeni Markowitz and Lom Friedman for a catered Shabbat meal and service Friday, March 16 at 6 pm. New special programs for families with kids in junior congregation (ages 6+) and young children alike!

Members:

adults \$9-14, children \$6-8,

Non-members:

adults \$10-15, children \$7-9.

Our Fabulous, Annual Purim Carnival Blowout

Saturday, March 10 at 11 am

American Halloween copied the Jewish celebration of Purim (I'm sure of it), so don your most fabulous costume and come celebrate at Sha'ar Zahav's annual Purim Carnival on the Saturday following Purim. As is our tradition, we invite all families to bring their old household toys to serve as prizes. Your child's old Power Ranger doll can be someone else's great new find! We will have games, booths, prizes and a costume contest. Rumor has it that one of our educators may put on a special performance as part of the festivities. All are encouraged to come, help with the booths, dress up, be campy and have fun.

thorough conversations with each of them on the topics of homelessness, campaign finance reform and the Middle East peace process. We wanted to address issues that affect us locally, nationally and internationally as Jews and as Americans. Through these conversations, Jonah discovered his talent and love for politics. He feels this opportunity changed his life.

Baby Havurah

Saturday, March 24, 9:30 am

Join us for Shabbat morning stretch and play! Songs, toys, bubbles, finger plays and a mini-service puppet show are not to be missed by the 24-month and under set.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, March 24, 10:30 am

Tot Shabbat is for children aged 2-5, their friends and families. We come together for an age-appropriate service filled with art, storytelling, singing, prayer and movement.

Kadimah Family and Children's Read-a-Thon

Our school needs your support. This month all Kadimah children are taking part in a read-a-thon to encourage them to read Jewish books and, at the same time, to raise money for our educational programs. Children not enrolled in Kadimah are also invited to participate and help raise money for all our educational programs. Sponsor sheets are available from Riqi Kosovske, our educator. Parents can help by reading books with their children. The community can help out by sponsoring our children and encouraging them to read.

For more information about any of these programs, or to RSVP, contact Jeni Markowitz, (familyeducator@shaarzahav.org), or Riqi Kosovske (educator@shaarzahav.org), or call 415/575-4962.

So, what's next for us Sha'ar Zahav teens? We hope to be able to attend next year's RAC along with taking some other trips together. We would like to express the utmost thanks to Rabbi Camille Angel for the adventure of a lifetime. We are incredibly enthusiastic about the future, about our life at Sha'ar Zahav, and about the possibility of truly making a difference.

The Jewish Gally Forward is published 11 times a year (monthly with a combined July-August issue) by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415/861-6932. Email: office@shaarzahav.org. Permission to reprint with attribution is hereby granted.

Members of the congregation receive the *Forward* as part of their membership. Nonmembers can receive a *Forward* subscription for \$36/year.

Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

Members of the Newsletter Committee

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- **Design and Layout:** Kerri Schiff
- **Printing:** Genesis Printing & Graphics
- **Distribution:** Mail It Right

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: attention Forward advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.

March 2001 Volume 24, Issue 6.



Tikkun Olam/Social Action

Sukkot in April is Coming

Sunday, April 29

Set aside April 29 and get your paint brushes ready! Sukkot in April is just around the corner and we want all past participants to return and newcomers to give it a try.

For those of you who have never heard of Sukkot in April, let me explain. Our congregation, along with other congregations and Jewish organizations around the Bay Area get together to paint, garden, clean and renovate homes belonging to senior citizens and the disabled. We also help to renovate buildings owned by non-profit organizations. For the past four years, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has been a leader in Sukkot in April. We have provided 50 volunteers each year, and we have successfully contributed to the renovation of three large community buildings: the Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center, the Westside Community Mental Health Center and the San Christina Residence. Last year we had the great opportunity to renovate the private residence of an elderly woman whose gratitude made it all worthwhile.

Please join us this year for our fifth annual Sukkot in April community action project. You don't need to have any special skills and we provide all the tools and food! You just need to be over fourteen and have a fun attitude. Please fill out the enclosed form and return it by March 31 to Dahlia Gross, CSZ Program Director at 290 Dolores Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

If you have any questions, feel free to call Laura Lowe at 415/247-2409.

We look forward to working with you.

Sponsor an Oneg Shabbat!

Sponsoring the oneg Shabbat following services is a lovely way to commemorate a special occasion. Onegs can be sponsored in honor of a simcha, as a tribute to the memory of a loved one or "just because." The cost is \$80-\$120 and we have a number of available dates in the coming months. Please call the CSZ office if you would like to inquire about sponsoring an oneg Shabbat on a specific date or would like more information.

Social Action Committee's Senior Outreach Lunch in the Tenderloin

Friday, March 16, 1 pm

Are you the type of person who wants to repair the world [tikkun olam], but simply can't find the time? If so, consider donating two hours this March with the guarantee of making someone smile and touching someone's heart. Each year Congregation Sha'ar Zahav has the honor of working with Jewish Family and Children's Services at the North of Market Senior Center serving a Shabbat lunch. Join us this year for a special Purim Luncheon with hamantashen, songs, and joy.

RSVP to Allan Berenstein 415/863-8033 or Dahlia Gross 415/575-4961.



Tom Whiting, Alex Davido, Willie Mae Edwards, Dahlia Gross and Michael Schaeffer

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March-Adar/Nisan

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

APRIL DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 5 AT 5 PM
MAY DEADLINE MONDAY, MARCH 26 AT 5 PM

ARTICLES

Please submit your articles as a Word attachment file via email to:
kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

ADVERTISING

To place a display ad, contact Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net). To place a classified ad, call the office.

4	9 Adar	5	10 Adar	6	11 Adar	7
• 11 am -2 pm Juggling for the Complete Klutz with Sara Felder Noily	• 2-3 pm - Healing Service	• 6 -7 pm - • 7-8:15 pm - • 7-8:30 pm - • 8:30-9:45 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew Beginning Yiddish 10 Essentials of Judaism Yiddish and the Left	• 4 pm - • 7 pm - Kadimah Newsletter			
11	16 Adar	12	17 Adar	13	18 Adar	14
• 6 pm - Newsletter Layout	• 6:30 pm - Va'ad Meeting	• 6 -7 pm - • 7-8:15 pm - • 7-8:30 pm - • 8:30-9:45 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew Beginning Yiddish 10 Essentials of Judaism Yiddish and the Left	• 4 pm - Kadimah			
18	23 Adar	19	24 Adar	20	25 Adar	21
• 4 pm - Music in the Mishkan	• 7:30-9pm - Understanding Jewish History	• 6 -7 pm - • 7-8:15 pm - • 8:30-9:45 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew Beginning Yiddish Yiddish and the Left	• 4 pm - • 7 pm - Kadimah Adult Edu Committee			
25	1 Nisan	26	2 Nisan	27	3 Nisan	28
• 1 pm - Rabbi's Parlor Session in the East Bay				• 6 pm-7 pm - • 7-8:15 pm - • 8:30-9:45 pm - Prayerbook Hebrew Beginning Yiddish Yiddish and the Left	• 4 pm - • 7 pm - Kadimah Newsletter	

Please Be in Touch With Me

I am eager to be in touch with all members of the CSZ family whenever there are occasions of joy or sadness in your lives. When there is a death in the family, please call me as soon as possible. We very much want to be there with you at a time of grief.

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

East Bay Serv

Friday, March 16, 7:15
vegetarian potluck, candle and zimrot (singing)

Home of Ida Kuluk and Susan
 4042 Maple Ave. Oakland - 510/

Please note that dates, times and locations sometimes get changed after the *Forward* is published. Call the office if you need update

THURSDAY			FRIDAY			SHABBAT		
1	6 Adar	2	7 Adar	3	Shabbat Terumah	8 Adar		
• 7 pm -	Introduction to Judaism	• 5:46 pm -	Candle Lighting	• 9 pm -	Torah Study			
		• 8:15 pm -	Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Larry Wexler	• 9:30 pm -	Kadimah			
12 Adar	8	13 Adar	9	10	Shabbat Tetzavah	15 Adar		
litting	Purim Costume Ball	• 5:53 pm -	Candle Lighting	• 10 am -	Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Nicole Bloom			
	• 6:30 pm -	Costume Fitting and Snacks	• 8:15 pm -	• 11 am -	Purim Carnival			
	• 7 pm -	Service and Shpeil		• 1:2:15 pm -	Meditation Havurah			
19 Adar	15	20 Adar	16	17	Shabbat Ki Tissa	22 Adar		
	• 7 pm -	Introduction to Judaism	• 1 pm - Social Action Senior Lunch	• 9 am -	Torah Study			
			• 5:59 pm - Candle Lighting	• 9:30 am -	Kadimah			
			• 6 pm - Family Kabbalat Shabbat Dinner	• 10 am -	Shabbat Services led by Ron Edelson and Leslie Kane			
			• 6:30 pm - Dinner with the Membership Committee	• 1:2:15 pm -	Meditation Havurah			
			• 7:15 pm - East Bay Services					
			• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Tiela Chalmers					
Adar	22	27 Adar	23	24	Shabbat Vayakhel Pekudei	29 Adar		
on	• 6:30 pm -	Ritual Committee	• 6:06 pm - Candle Lighting	• 9 am -	Torah Study			
	• 7 pm -	Introduction to Judaism	• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Dev Felder Noily and Laura Lowe	• 9:30 am -	Kadimah			
			• 6:30 pm - Open House Shabbat Dinner in conjunction with Shabbat Across America Marsha Attie, songleader	• 9:30 am -	Baby Havurah			
4 Nisan	29	5 Nisan	30	6 Nisan	Shabbat Vayikra	7 Nisan		
ditioning	• 7 pm -	Introduction to Judaism	• 6:12 pm - Candle Lighting	• 10 am -	Shabbat Services led by Howard Steiermann			
			• 8:15 pm - Shabbat Services led by Lyssa Friedman and Daniel Chesir	• 1:2:15 pm -	Meditation Havurah			



Why Is This Member Different From All Other Members? by Marc Wernick



This month, we profile Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's youngest adult member, Larry Kaplun, who is 20 years old. "It is so gratifying to be acknowledged and respected by people I don't even know," explains Larry in response to the obvious question: How does it feel to be the youngest adult member of the synagogue?

"There really aren't enough young people who go to synagogue," remarks Larry. While he admits he hasn't taken a poll, he thinks a lot of kids were forced to go to Hebrew school and some aren't sure that religion is important. Larry went to Hebrew school all the way through bar mitzvah, then enrolled for a semester at Hebrew High at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, but soon lost interest.

When he was 17, Larry explored his spirituality. "I was aware that I had a soul and began exploring issues of mindfulness and compassion for myself," Larry said. "I was unhappy when I was younger and needed a release." Spirituality provided that release for Larry and gave him the confidence to relocate to San Francisco when he turned 18. "I was never much of a risk taker. But I knew that I did not want to defend my life to other people," explains Larry. He moved up here and lived at the Larkin Street Youth Center Transitional Living Program. "It was home. I was learning new skills about life - balancing a checkbook, doing laundry, getting my GED and cooking. The love and support from people off the bat felt great. I felt free," recounts Larry. He admits that it is still a struggle to be on his own, but he is more comfortable with who he is and how much he has gained and grown.

Judaism provides a different component to Larry's spiritual life. When in synagogue, Larry feels compassion, mindfulness and closeness to God. Singing in Hebrew and praying quietly make synagogue a different place for Larry. "Sometimes I am exhausted and falling asleep. Sometimes my mind wanders - thinking 'I'm hungry,' or

'What am I doing after CSZ' or 'Hmm, the rabbi has some funky hats.' Other times I am deep in prayer and time flies - 'Wow, we're at the Aleinu already!' I have found that reading the English helps me understand what we are singing about."

"The liturgy, especially the poetry, and having a lesbian rabbi make CSZ more interesting than other Reform synagogues," notes Larry. Larry is a Friday night regular and is hopeful that he can help revitalize La'atid. When asked what CSZ can do to attract more young people, Larry comments, "People have to want to be there. But if they do, CSZ is a great choice. It's open and accepting and so diverse."

Next month marks Larry's two-year anniversary of moving to San Francisco and the life that Larry has built here is remarkable. "My experience at Larkin Street has helped inspire me to want to work at a non-profit, so I can give back what I received," he mentions. When he is not working, Larry likes to write. And he loves to read. (just read *Beloved*, is re-reading *Paradise* and wants to dig into *Song of Solomon*, all by Toni Morrison). "I don't know why a white Jewish boy with Russian parents and grandparents finds stories of slavery inspirational, but I do!" And Larry likes to watch films. "Working in a video store, I am always being begged to recommend the greatest movie I have never seen," jokes Larry.

In keeping with our tradition, we asked Larry four questions to help us better understand why this member is different from all other members.

1. What has been your deepest spiritual experience?

Larry speaks about these past High Holidays as a profound and unique experience for him. 5761 was the first time Larry attended High Holiday services at Sha'ar Zahav and he did not know what to expect. "It was the first time I felt comfortable. As a kid, I remember sitting for hours - sleeping until I was slapped, begging to go to the bathroom so I could hide," recalls Larry about holidays past. This year was a totally different experience. The beautiful building, music and poetry

combined with the solidarity of purpose among everyone there moved Larry to a different place. "This year Yom Kippur provided a day to focus on myself, to accept anger and fear, to find a place for the depression I sometimes feel and to give gratitude for the life I have made," Larry said.

2. If you were to ask one favor of God, what would it be?

Acknowledging that this is a tough question, Larry replies, "I really would not want it to be a favor, something small." After pausing and thinking through a couple of different ideas, Larry decides to pray for peace. "I would ask God to help me through fear and to learn from it. Realizing that it is important to experience fear, I would want to take that experience and put it into my future with a sense of peacefulness," explains Larry.

3. What is your favorite Jewish memory?

"Hanukah, always Hanukah," Larry replied quickly. "It was always a blast," he continued. Larry describes Hanukkah memories of singing, lighting candles, eating chocolate gelt and getting money from his family. With those memories, how could Hanukah not be a favorite?

4. What are you most looking forward to?

Larry responded on two different levels. On a personal level, he would like to write a novel and perhaps learn to speak Russian. "Oy! If my grandmother could hear that!" he quips. On a more general level, he hopes that growth and wisdom will always be part of his experience.

Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Larry Kaplun. We hope that CSZ will grow and learn along with Larry and other young, new members of the synagogue.

Do you have items for the Naches Column? We'd love to publish them. Please contact the office and give us your good news!

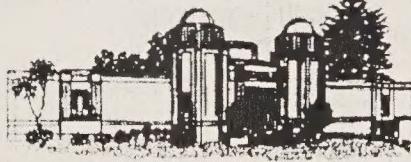
President's Column *continued from page 3*

over an hour among sixty people. Discussion of significant topics is hindered when the group is too large for each of the participants to express an opinion. And even with the ever-expanding size of the Advance, we hear from members who are distressed at not being invited to the Advance, or who, having been invited, find it difficult to attend because of our inability to invite life partners and children.

This year, the Va'ad has come to the conclusion that in trying to achieve so much for so many, the Advance is in danger of failing to achieve either its leadership development role or its function as a forum for intensive debate and renewal. The Va'ad is therefore planning a new direction for the Advance, essentially splitting it into two annual events, one being a smaller and more focused leadership weekend, and the other a larger, more inclusive congregational gathering, offering a menu of discussion, spirituality, learning and unabashed fun. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will be fully implemented in 2002. To my knowledge, Sha'ar Zahav will be the first Reform congregation to offer a weekend expe-

rience like this to its entire membership. As usual, we are pacesetters.

Events of this magnitude require a considerable amount of early planning. It is not too soon to be thinking about how you want this new congregational experience to emerge. If you find this new event appealing, consider volunteering to help with planning, starting with a new name. You can make your mark on this exciting new gathering. Just picture CSZ generations to come remembering you as the founder of the "Sha'ar Zahav Annual [your name here] Water Ballet, Symposium and Talmud Bake-Off!"



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Appreciation

Lyssa Friedman summed it up: it takes a congregation to make a bar mitzvah. We want to thank CSZ for making Shmulik's bar mitzvah such a meaningful event in our lives. The participation of so many members of our community contributed to every aspect of the bar mitzvah. The davening, Torah leyning, singing and the warm, heimish atmosphere would not, indeed could not, have been possible at any other congregation. Many people deserve thanks for being part of what led up to and culminated in the bar mitzvah. They include teachers, Shmulik's service leading mentors, Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, CSZ staff and friends Phyllis Mintzer, David Shneer, Caryn Aviv, Jen Levinson, Elise Fineberg, Lea Salem, Melanie Kushner, Rabbi Dorothy A. Richman, Brian Besser, Tiela Chalmers, Dev Felder Noily, Jonathan Pannor, Howard Steiermann, Nina Wouk, Ora Prochovnick, Danny Kodmuri, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Dan Belm, Jeff Piade, Frank Yellin and Rose Katz. If we have inadvertently omitted a name, know that we send our heartfelt thanks. Todah rabah, a *sheynm dank*. We look forward to celebrating many more simchas with CSZ.

- Leslie Kane and Manny Fishman

Celestial Sounds

Highlights Jewish Composers in Music in the Mishkan part II

Sunday, March 18, 4 pm

Celestial Sounds highlights the work of Jewish composers such as M. Bruch - Kol Nidre and J. Achron - Hebrew Melody. The concert will also feature pieces for violin and harp by C. Saint-Saens, G. Donizetti and V. Perichetti among others. Featured performers include Randall Weiss, violinist and Dan Levitan, harp.

Please join us for a wine and cheese reception directly following the performance.

Tickets will be available for purchase at the door or in advance through the CSZ office, 415/861-6932. Ticket prices: Adults: \$10-\$25 (sliding scale); Seniors / Disabled: \$5; No one turned away for lack of funds. Volunteers needed.

Rabbi's Column

continued from page 2

impressions: "Rabbi Angel, you have such special students!" "They are eager to learn and to participate, to meet and befriend lots of new people; they are charming, sensitive, responsible and kind in spirit." These are just some of the comments I heard that stick out in my mind. Now, I know it comes as no surprise to many of you who have watched these and the other kids from among the first generation of Kadimah grow up, to hear that our kids are phenomenally special. But many people who know of Sha'ar Zahav - its origin, history with and commitment to the GLBT community - were curious to meet and not afraid to ask our students about growing up at Sha'ar Zahav, about having two moms, about growing up in such a gay positive community.

I believe that in these four full days, we expanded and deepened people's consciousness and awareness and sensitivity in all sorts of subtle and profound ways - that the RAC staff could not have planned for or pulled off better - simply because we were there. I can't kvell enough - we, as a congregation, cannot be more proud and hopeful that the next generation has already begun to make this world a more fair, kind and just society. By establishing this synagogue and committing our time, energy and money to our community, our religious school and our youth programming, we all have had a hand in raising these kids. Thank God for the privilege of helping to teach these kids and to witness their courage and commitment as they themselves find their voices and realize their power, capability and responsibility to engage in tikkun olam - the politics of repair.

Our students have written about some of the highlights from the trip for this issue of the *Gaily Forward*. I encourage you to read what they wrote and then to ask them to share with you in more detail their personal memories. In the months ahead, we will be co-leading services together, getting involved with the Social Action Committee and inviting the congregation to join with us in our sacred pursuits.

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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Programming office, 415/575-4961
Education office, 415/575-4962
office@shaarzahav.org (email)
<http://www.shaarzahav.org> (web)

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Kadimah Head Teacher:
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Jewish Family Educator:
Jeni Markowitz
- familyeducator@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

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(415/550-9449),
- sfgellman@aol.com or
- president@shaarzahav.org
Vice President: Lisa Katz
Vice President: Lyssa Friedman
Treasurer: James Carlson
Recorder: Nancy Kates

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Diana Buchbinder (ex officio)
Howard Herman
Howard Steiermann
Rose Katz
Laura Lowe
Drew Parker-Rose
Jacob Rothman
Jeffrey Sherman
Susan Unger
Ami Zusman

Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain her or his number from the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education: Ron Edelman and Prudence Carter
Archives: open
Baby Havurah: open
Bequests and Donations: Richard Inlander
Bikkur Cholim: Allan Berenstein, Avraham Giannini, Eileen Levy, Rachel MacLachlan, Deborah Udin
Book Group: Mark Mackler
Building and Grounds:
Bylaws: Richard Inlander
Children's Education Board: Liz Schaffer
Cemetery: Richard Inlander
Dor Rishon Brotherhood: open
Dues Liaison: open
East Bay Havurah: Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler
Endowment Fund: David Stein
Finance: James Carlson
Fine Arts: Barbara Cymrot
Fundraising: Arthur Slepian
Gift Shop: Jeff Rubin
Israel Havurah: Ron Lezell and Michal Goralsky
La'atid: open
Leadership Development: Paul Cohen
Library: Joan Goldman
Long-Range Planning: Allan Gold
Membership: Marianne Balin
Membership Outreach: Tony Harris
Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign: Ellie Cohen
Newsletter: Karen Schiller
- kschiller@igc.org
Past Presidents Council: David Stein
Personnel: Lyssa Friedman
Public Relations: Sharyn Saslafsky and Marc Wernick
Rabbi Liaison: Allan Gold
Ritual: Nicole Bloom
- bloomn@netscape.net
Social Action: Laura Lowe and Allan Berenstein
Toddler/Pre-school Havurah: Deena Lahn
UAHC National Liaison: Mike Rankin
UAHC Regional Liaison: Daniel Chesir
WCGLBJO Liaison: David Gellman
Women's Havurah: open

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Jewish Organizations.

Contributions

AIDS Fund

James Carlson, in honor of Darrell King.

Neil Hart, in memory of Tim Elliott.

Paul Glackman.

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ellen Albin.

Ami Zusman, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Allen Harris.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Jason Gaber.

Chesir-Stein Music Fund

Jon Funk and John Arnold, in honor of the 10th anniversary of Ben Bank and Brian Jersky.

Ben Bank and Brian Jersky, in appreciation of Steve Weitz, Kirsten Gustavson and Michael Sarid.

Children's Education Fund

Claudia Bernard and Howard Herman, in honor of David Shneer.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in honor of Melody Funk's milestone birthday.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in memory of Isa Cymrot-Wu.

Lonnie Weiss, in honor of the blessing and naming of Rose Heath Katz.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in memory of Molly and Jessie Stuart.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in honor of the naming of Rose Heath Katz.

Ami Zusman, in honor of David Shneer.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in honor of the birth of Ro'e Augusta Zaid.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart, in honor of Zack Barnes Miller and Jackie Mauro's becoming b'nei mitzvah.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the synagogue office.

General Fund

Hershey, in memory of Phyllis Rena Abadzoglou.

Marc Lipschutz, in memory of Henry Cipriani.

Ian and Larry Rifkin, in honor of the 10th anniversary of Ben Bank and Brian Jersky.

Irene Ogus, in honor of Marc Lipschutz.

James and Lori Sagarin, in honor of Ed Lopatin.

Ben Bank and Brian Jersky, in appreciation of Lea Salem.

Terry Rose, in honor of Nancy Silverrod and Rachel Maclachlan.

James Carlson, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

James Warshell, in memory of Comet.

Jeff Forman, in memory of Jack Wexler.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs, in memory of Paul Nemrow.

Jeff Sherman, in memory of Sadie Newman.

Laura Lowe, in honor of the Bikkur Cholim Committee.

Marc Lipschutz, in memory of Aaron Martin Lipschutz.

Rabbi Stephen Arnold and Cecile Arnold, in honor of Rabbi Camille Angel and Karen Segal.

Alice Prussin, in honor of Rabbi Angel and the CSZ community.

Jeffrey Sherman, in memory of Jack Wexler.

Steve Horowitz, in memory of Keith Fenton.

Mark Gershman, in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

James Carlson, in honor of the 10th anniversary of Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath.

Nancy and Kailin Koch, in memory of Thelma Fox Chalmers.

Nancy Feinstein and Glenn Shor, Zack Barnes Miller and Jackie Mauro's becoming b'nei mitzvah.

Nancy Meyer, in honor of Ron Lezell.

Niki Rothman, in memory of Robert Olcerst.

Norma and Murray Kane, in honor of Leslie Kane, Manny Fishman and Shmulik Fishman.

Sam Salkin and Frankie Whitman, in honor of Zack Barnes Miller and Jackie Mauro's becoming b'nei mitzvah.

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Bernice Wiseman.

Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz, in honor of Rachel Maclachlan and Nancy Silverrod.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, in honor of the installation of Rabbi Camille Shira Angel.

James Carlson, in honor of the naming of Clarissa Kripke.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Dan Bellm, in memory of David Glassberg.

Ami Zusman, in memory of Benjamin Herzl Saperstein.

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Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz.

Norma and Murray Kane.

Mark Gershman.

Carolyn Pines and Judy Schwartz.

Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Dan Bellm.

Bernard and Lillie Levine.

Phyllis and George Mintzer.

Jeff Forman.

Clarissa Kripke and Gail Ludwig.

Prayerbook Fund

Ben Bank and Brian Jersky, in appreciation of Nicole Bloom for her advice, love and blessing.

Ritual Fund

Ben Bank and Brian Jersky, with thanks to Kirsten Gustavson and Michael Sarid.

Harvey Milk Social Action Fund

Eli Weinstein, in memory of Hal Call and Dorr Jones, gay rights activists since the 1950s.

Lonnie Weiss, in memory of Jack Wexler.

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Clara Blumenthal.

Contributions in memory of Elijah Silverrod Machlachlan

Allan Berenstein.

Lonnie Weiss.

Jeffrey Sherman.

Laura Lowe.

Eve Meyer and Jim Edlin

Ami Zusman.

Lyssa Friedman and Daphne Stuart.

Jason Honig.

Murray and Marcia Schneider.

James Carlson.

Lea Salem and Lisa Ochs.

Terry Rose.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Aaron and Emma Buchbinder, in memory of Roy Garay.

Karen Berman and Jonathan Yellen, in honor of Rabbi Angel.

The Wexler Family, in memory of Jack Wexler and in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Charlie Lourie.

Lonnie Weiss, to welcome Rabbi Angel and Karen Segal to our community.

Jeff Forman, in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Shirley and Gerald Zaid, with appreciation for the naming of Ro'e Augusta Zaid.

Phyllis and George Mintzer, in memory of Marion Behrens.

—Special thanks to the following — individuals who have generously helped to underwrite this year's Music in the Mishkan Series

Ben Bank and Brian Jersky.

Ron and Ruth Miguel.

Ben Davis.

David Maltz.

Rose and Sadie Katz.

L. and M. Flythe-Bisbee.

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign

James Carlson, in memory of Ron Wilmot.

Louis Hirschmann.

Jerry Rosenstein, in memory of his family.

Lane Chadwick, in memory of Bill Garry.

Name that Tune!

An Interview with the Singing Havurah's Michael Sarid.

by Leslie Kane

"Variety is the spice of Jewish music," says Michael Sarid, founder of CSZ's Singing Havurah. The Havurah meets on the second Shabbat of each month at 3 pm at the Mishkan to sing Jewish songs. "We sing everything - Hebrew liturgical music, Ladino and Yiddish, Israeli folk songs, Jewish camp favorites, Hebrew choral music and new compositions by contemporary composers." As founder, Michael graciously performs the role of programmer, choosing a theme, selecting the songs, photocopying music and lyrics, teaching, sending out reminders and cajoling participants into leading a song they know. "Since we only meet once a month, it's not unusual for a holiday to be approaching, so the holiday often serves as our theme. I try to find music associated with the upcoming holiday or the holiday liturgy."

Everyone is welcome at the Singing Havurah. Michael is quick to point out that, "You don't have to read music or have a great voice. But you must love to sing." About 15-20 CSZ members make up the core of the Singing Havurah. However, lots of folks have lent their voices to the Havurah from its beginning, eight months ago. "CSZ members, out-of-towners who are visiting CSZ friends, and folks from the Jewish community who have heard about us through the grapevine have spent the afternoon singing with us," Michael notes. And no one leaves without having sung at least ten different version of Adon Olam. Michael warns that, "Gilbert and Sullivan, Mozart, Bizet, Gershwin, TV show themes - you name it - are all fair game for Adon Olam." The Havurah next meets on March 10 at 3 pm and the theme is Pesach. Michael has some fun in store, so come join us!

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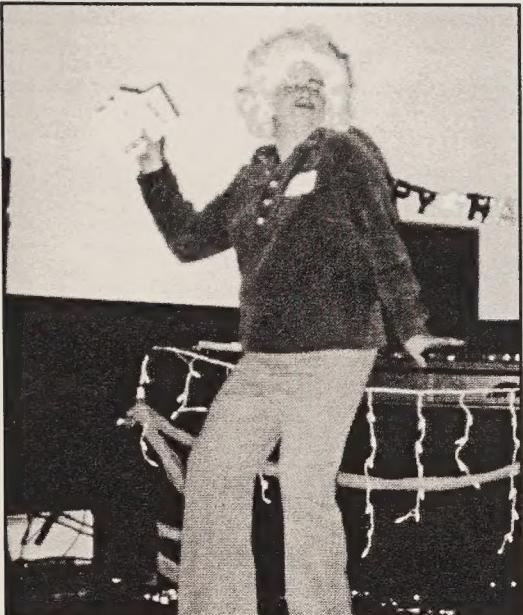
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Photos from our Hannukah Celebration (photos by Sara Davidson)



Carin Aviv



Hannukah 2000

A Thank You from the San Francisco Food Bank

by Paul Ash, Executive Director of the Food Bank

On behalf of the San Francisco Food Bank, I thank you for sponsoring a food drive during the High Holidays. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav raised 1,394 pounds of food during the food drive. This donation will help to provide wholesome meals at 400 after-school programs, senior centers, shelters and soup kitchens, and through meal delivery programs for the disabled, the elderly, and people living with AIDS. I am grateful for your generous response to the need in our community.

Ten congregations and Jewish organizations participated in the High Holidays Food Drive. Together, these congregations contributed 14,564 pounds of food — an increase of 16 percent over 1999. To add to the generosity of the Jewish community, the Elise and Walter Haas Fund pledged to match every pound raised during the High Holidays with a gift of 50 cents. As a result, the fund will augment its annual support of the San Francisco Food Bank with a special grant of \$7,282.



Karen Segal, Rabbi Angel
Sara Schor, Jackie Maura
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March Anniversaries

- 11 Mark Oliver and Steven Polsky
- 15 Bernard Choden and Lois Scott
- 22 Michele Sullivan and Andrew Williamson
- 24 Geraldine Barr and Maxine Epstein
- 31 Jessie Ap'neva and Nina Wouk

Naches

To Rachel Kleigman, on completing the San Diego Marathon in 4 hours and 34 minutes.

To Jeffrey Lilly, on receiving his Masters Degree in Comparative Literature from San Francisco State University.

To Greer Hauptman, on being accepted to Brandeis University.

Oneg & Flower Sponsorship

These generous people sponsored the Oneg Shabbat and/or flowers in recent weeks:

- 12/1 Flowers by G'dali Braverman in loving memory of his partner, Roy Reinholtz.
- 12/15 Flowers by Deborah Udin in loving memory of Stanley Udin, Leon Levin and Sara Levin.
- 12/16 Flowers by Nancy Feinstein and Glenn Shor in honor of Jackie Mauro and Zack Barnes Miller's becoming b'nei mitzvah.
- 1/13 Flowers by Nancy Feinstein and Glenn Shor in honor of Sara Shor's becoming bat mitzvah.
- 1/26 Flowers by Ron Edelman in loving memory of his grandmother, Louise Seidler.
- 2/2 Oneg by Lawrence Helman in loving memory of his mother, Gladys Helman.
- 2/23 Flowers by Ron Edelman in loving memory of his friend, Tom Mapp.

March Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Geduldig
Arthur Slepian
- 3 Shelley Adler
Edmund Blaik
Howard Herman
Craig Shear
- 5 Stephanie Godt
Elias Rose
Nancy Wecker
- 7 Arlene Singer
- 8 Ann Biderman
David Couch
Ziggy Gimnicher
Phyllis Mintzer
- 9 Nancy Igdaloff
Michael Levy
- 10 George Mintzer
Stephen Shotland
Dana Vinicoff
- 11 Jessie Ap'neva
- 12 Jerome Geffner
- 13 Michael Frank
Mary Schroeder
- 14 Dey Rose
- 15 Jeffrey Davidson
- 16 Tracey Berliner
Geri Kahn
Jonathan Pannor
Alice Prussin
- 17 Larry Kaplun
Ian Sweedler
Jennifer Woods
- 18 Ann Bauman

Members' Yahrzeits

- 7 Isabel Fishman
- 16 Ted Mendonca
- 18 Ede Rosen
- 20 Robert Coffman
- 23 Paul Nemrow
- 26 Michael Lipson
- 28 Neill Rosen
- 31 Marvin Steele

- 20 Kathryn McHenry
- 21 Mike Abramson
Jeffrey Shuman
- 22 Ezra Barth-Rogers
Talia Barth-Rogers
Ellen Novogrodsky
- 23 Aaron Berman
- 24 Lucy Bernholz
- 25 Hilda Bernstein
- 27 Rebecca Doctors
Joanne Kapsack
Jacob Warsaw
- 28 Michael Hulton
- 29 Bob Guterman
Ira Hirschfield
- 30 Tony Harris
David Maltz
- 31 Zola Crow Rosenfeld
Mia Crow Rosenfeld

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new and returning members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Jennifer Woods and David Gorbet
Avner Lapovsky
Alex Davido
Howard Rubin
Geoff Skigen and Beth Silverman

We are happy to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Condolences

Batya Kalis on the death of her brother, Royal Kalis.

Jake Wirtschafter on the death of his friend, Peter Pappas.

Phyllis and George Mintzer on the death of their nephew, Charlie Lourie.

Colette Patt on the death of her grandfather, Alfred Ephraim Shavell.

Lisa Ochs on the death of her grandmother, Clara Blumenthal.